



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

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July 14, 2004

## TWO FROM PARSONS, KANSAS, PLEAD GUILTY IN CRACK COCAINE CASE

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **James Jackson**, 36, and **Vanissa Haggard**, 35, both from Parsons, Kansas, each entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge G. Thomas VanBebber on July 12, 2004. Jackson entered a guilty plea to **distributing more than 5 grams of crack cocaine** and Haggard entered a guilty plea to **distributing crack cocaine**.

Jackson admitted at his plea that beginning in January 1999 through September 2003, he, along with several others, engaged in distributing crack cocaine to other individuals in Southeast Kansas and Southwest Missouri. Jackson admitted that he was part of an organization that obtained larger quantities of cocaine and manufactured crack cocaine and also purchased large quantities of crack cocaine to sell. Jackson admitted that his role in this drug trafficking organization was to distribute varying quantities of crack cocaine to lower level distributors and users. Jackson faces a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for September 27, 2004.

Haggard admitted at her plea that on March 18, 2003, she sold approximately 2.2 grams of crack cocaine to an undercover KBI agent working on this investigation. Haggard faces a maximum of twenty years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for September 27, 2004.

Melgren said that Jackson and Haggard were charged in related cases as part of a two and one-half year investigation by the Southeast Kansas Drug Task Force into the distribution of crack cocaine in Southeast Kansas.

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Co-defendant **Franchester Griffin**, 28, Parsons, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on June 28, 2004, to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute 50 grams of more (1.76 ounces or more) of crack cocaine. Griffin faces a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for September 13, 2004.

Co-defendants **Adam Davis**, 29, and **Joseph Riley**, 25, both of Parson, Kansas, entered guilty pleas on June 7, 2004. **Davis** entered a plea to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine. Davis faces a minimum of twenty years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. He is set for sentencing on August 23, 2004. **Riley** entered a plea to one count of distributing more than 5 grams of crack cocaine. Riley faces a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for August 30, 2004.

Co-defendant **Shannon Harris**, 29, Parsons, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on May 28, 2004, to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine. Harris faces a minimum of twenty years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for August 16, 2004.

Co-defendants **Debra Loyd**, 36, **David Robinson**, 51, and **Wendell Martin**, 23, all of Parsons, Kansas, and **Timothy Hans Ford**, 35, Coffeyville, Kansas, are each set for a jury trial on August 24, 2004, at 9:30 a.m.

Co-defendant **Rita Smith**, 36, Parsons, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on June 7, 2004, to one count of distributing crack cocaine within 1000 feet of Garfield Elementary School in Parsons, Kansas. Smith faces a minimum of one year and a maximum of forty years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for August 23, 2004, at 3:00 p.m.

Co-defendants **Ronald Kendricks**, 24, and **Rowshane Dunn**, 29, both of Parsons, Kansas, are set for a jury trial on July 20, 2004 at 9:30 a.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the Parsons Police Department, the Labette County Sheriff's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, the Coffeyville Police Department, the Winfield Police Department, the Joplin, Missouri Police Department, the Labette County Attorney's Office, and the Cowley County Attorney's Office in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask in this prosecution.